



Changes for NPCA in Arizona

At the end of January, the Southwest team bid farewell to our colleague and friend, Kevin Dahl, who retired after more than 13 years as NPCA's Arizona Program Manager. Parks in Arizona and throughout the Southwest are so much better for his years of service, and the people of Tucson, where Kevin is now serving on the city council, are fortunate to have his leadership.

We will miss Kevin, but we are very excited to announce that Michè Lozano joined the NPCA team as Arizona Program Manager in March. Michè is a 'Them in STEM', a Two-Spirit Indigenous Mexican-American and Arizona native. They have served as a naturalist, wildlife biologist, community organizer, and creative problem solver for social and environmental justice issues. Michè works with local communities and leadership to create long lasting and equitable infrastructure changes. They hold a degree in environmental science with an emphasis in resource management, and they are a certified full-stack web developer with an interest in environmental technology.

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Top: Current signage at Amache, a former World War II Japanese American incarceration site near Granada in southeast Colorado. Amache joins the National Park System after unanimous Senate and House passage in February. ©Beth Schneider Photography

America's Newest National Park Site

In February — just in time for the National Day of Remembrance and a visit to Amache from Interior Secretary Deb Haaland — the U.S. House and Senate both voted unanimously to establish Amache National Historic Site! NPCA celebrates the creation of America's newest national park site and recognizes the Amache survivors and descendants who, with the Amache Preservation Society, advocated for many years to protect and honor the site. This successful campaign stands on their shoulders.

Amache was one of 10 incarceration sites the U.S. established in 1942 to imprison 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II — over 7,500 of them at Amache. It is a dark chapter in our history, but it is critical we keep the story alive.

Two-thirds of people imprisoned in Japanese incarceration sites were American citizens, and the rest immigrated to the U.S. aspiring for citizenship. The prisoners were allowed to bring only what they could carry, and most families lost everything—their homes, possessions, land and businesses. Nonetheless, many still believed in the promise of their adopted country, and Amache had the highest percentage of military enlistment among all the sites.

In a letter to Senate leaders, Amache survivors wrote, “Our national parks and the stories they honor reflect our values as a nation. Adding Amache to the National



Park System would allow us to protect a physical, and sacred, reminder that incarceration affected a diaspora of Japanese American communities across the country.”

Our National Park System preserves not only important landscapes but also many of our most important stories. Thank you for being part of the public voice to protect these special places.

Right: Advocates, NPS and DOI leadership, and congressional and Senate champions gather at Amache for the National Day of Remembrance, February 19, 2022. ©Beth Schneider Photography

OUR MISSION

Protecting and enhancing America's National Park System for present and future generations.

FIELD REPORT

WINTER | SPRING 2022

Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico & Utah

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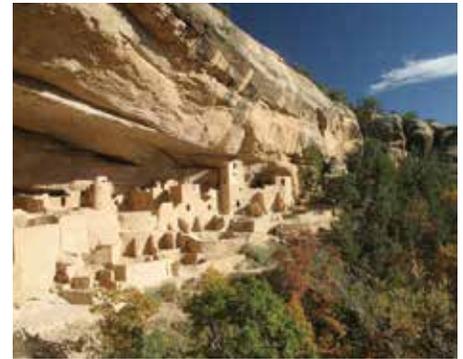


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See the National Parks with NPCA Experts

The exquisite beauty and rich stories of America's national parks are calling your name. Join us this year on one of NPCA's small-group educational journeys just for park enthusiasts like you. Highlighting NPCA's important contributions to park protection along the way, NPCA staff experts, trip leaders and partners will provide behind-the-scenes access and insights to special places within our parks.

Right: Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde National Park
©Larry Gevert | Dreamstime



THE FALL 2022 TRIP COLLECTION

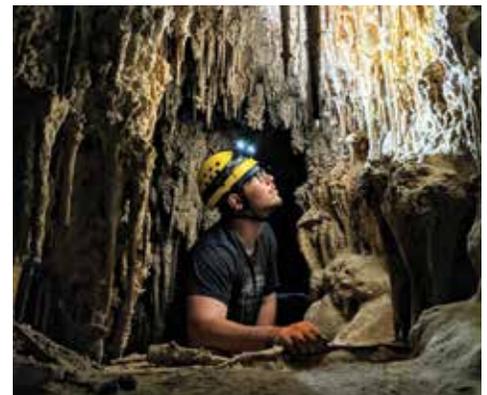
Sept 9-16	On The Road to Freedom: Understanding Civil Rights Through Our National Parks and Heritage Areas
Sept 12-18	Ancient Forests of The Olympic Peninsula
Sept 25-Oct 1	Natural Fortunes of The Four Corners
Oct 6-13	Fa'A Samoa: The National Park Of American Samoa
Oct 24-26	The National Parks Of Hawai'i Oct 16-24 with optional guided trip extension
Nov 1-5	Wild California Escape: Channel Islands National Park (Small-Ship Cruise with Lindblad Expeditions)
Nov 9-15	The Backroads of Big Bend

For more information about these exclusive NPCA trips, visit npca.org/trips or contact travel@npca.org.

Exciting News for Caves and Parks in Southern New Mexico and West Texas

In January, the U.S. Forest Service proposed a 20-year moratorium on oil and gas leasing on 28,000 acres of the Lincoln National Forest between Carlsbad Caverns National Park (NM) and Guadalupe Mountains National Park (TX).

The Guadalupe Cave Resource Protection Area is on the Guadalupe Escarpment, an area of subterranean karst (porous limestone that provides ideal material for the formation of caves) with a critical, interconnected aquifer that supports the surrounding communities. Halting mineral extraction in the area safeguards against pollution of the aquifer from contaminants such as fracking fluids (which move easily through the porous geological layers) and abandoned equipment (which sometimes falls underground through unstable openings in the karst surface).



Setting aside the Guadalupe Cave Resource Protection Area from mineral extraction elevates the value of water, recreation and cave and karst geology in this corner of the Permian Basin. Momentum for conserving these values will hopefully lead to broader protections in this unique and fragile landscape.

TAKE ACTION Protect our fragile cave and karst systems, submit a comment online (p2a.co/DBHqc2I) by April 25.

Above: Chimney Cave at Carlsbad Caverns National Park ©NPS | Dan Pawlak

Southwest Parks Adapt Amid a Surge in Visitation

The Southwest region is home to three of the nation's five busiest national parks: Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain and Zion. NPCA is committed to protecting resources and the visitor experience at these — and all — park sites. As you make your plans to visit parks in the Southwest this year, remember some parks have managed access systems in place. Plan ahead and reserve your permits or tickets for the parks below at recreation.gov.

Arches National Park begins a pilot timed entry system this year (effective April 3-October 3, 2022). Reservations are available on a rolling basis (three to four months in advance) online.

Traffic congestion, circling parking lots and temporary gate closures have too often dominated the visitor experience at Arches. Reserving a date and time to enter the park gives visitors the opportunity to travel with more certainty.

Zion National Park debuted a pilot day-use lottery for permits to hike the half-mile chains section of the Angels Landing trail. Permits are available online (two kinds of lotteries: a quarterly seasonal lottery and a day-before lottery) and are required beginning April 1, 2022.

Crowding and congestion on the precipitous Angels Landing trail present significant



Above: Crowds at Delicate Arch in Arches National Park ©Whit Richardson **Left:** Temporary gate closure due to full parking capacity was a common occurrence at Arches in 2021. ©Whit Richardson

safety hazards, and metered access using permits aims to improve the visitor experience in this popular spot.

Rocky Mountain National Park begins the third year of a pilot timed entry system this summer (effective May 27-October 10, 2022). Permits are available on a rolling basis (one to two months in advance) online.

Timed entry permits for park entrance (two options: one including and one excluding the popular Bear Lake Road Corridor) help distribute visitors throughout the park and across time. The system is similar to the 2021 season but check online for new features — managers use adaptive strategies to adjust and improve the system each year.

Sand Creek Massacre Cultural Landscape Will Remain Intact... for Now

Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site preserves the location and story of the brutal murder of 230 Arapaho and Cheyenne people, mostly women and children, by Colorado volunteer soldiers in 1864. A historically accurate landscape that allows visitors to envision the events of the massacre is essential to the hallowed site's integrity.

So, when Xcel Energy, as part of its Colorado Power Pathway project, proposed to install a series of transmission lines within a few miles of the site in this fairly flat part of southeast Colorado, NPCA joined an effort to mobilize stakeholders and lodge concerns with Xcel.

Leaders of the Northern Arapaho and Northern Cheyenne Tribes and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, the descendants of the Indigenous people murdered at Sand Creek, described their

sacred connection to the place and expressed the need for it to remain unmarred by modern industrial infrastructure. (Apart from this particular project, future development of soaring towers for distributing energy from wind and solar sources was also a concern.)

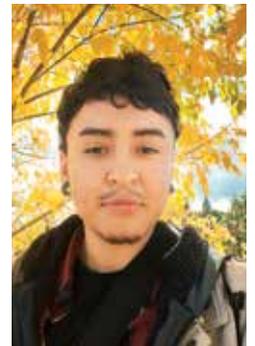
As a result of this advocacy, Xcel adjusted the plans to minimize the impact of the transmission lines (the nearest is now proposed 10 miles from the park and outside the viewshed) while committing to ongoing consultation with Tribal stakeholders. The cultural landscape of Sand Creek Massacre — and nearby Amache National Historic Site — will remain intact for now.

As vital renewable energy projects are planned and built, NPCA will continue to seek the balance of securing just futures for communities, preserving history and partnering with key stakeholders.

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Michè has a personal calling to serve the human and 'more than human' communities as a visionary and wayfinder, that is, combining their creativity, skills and cross-functional life experience to further their passion for preserving cultural and natural resources. They can often be found glamping, foraging, rock climbing, birding, creating and probably enjoying a local *taqueria*.



Right: Michè Lozano, NPCA's new Arizona Program Manager, pictured near Mount Shasta ©Michè Lozano



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New Protections for Sacred Chaco Canyon Landscape

In November, the Biden administration took a momentous step toward protecting the extended landscape around Chaco Culture National Historical Park, proposing a 20-year moratorium on new oil and gas leasing on federal lands within a 10-mile zone surrounding the park. (Tribal lands are exempt out of respect for Tribal self-determination.) This follows a years-long effort by Pueblo Nations and other Tribal communities, conservation

groups such as NPCA, as well as strong support from the New Mexico congressional delegation. This decision will take the pressure off as we continue to seek permanent solutions to protect the cultural sites and the communities and Tribes who live and practice traditional activities across this landscape.

Above: Fajada Butte in Chaco Culture National Historical Park ©Golasza | Dreamstime

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